

Mr. Speaker, may God bless every one of them.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORIAL RIFLE SQUAD AT FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of the members of the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. These men set an example of selfless service for all Americans.

Since June 19, 1979, the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad has performed a critical service by providing a military cemetery burial service for honorably discharged veterans. Over the past 25 years, the rifle squad has conducted 42,000 funerals, free of charge, at the request of families and veterans organizations. The first squad boasted six members, the youngest of whom was 50 years old. Today, the ages of the more than 100 members of the rifle squad range from 26 to 87, averaging a spry 71.6 years.

Mr. Speaker, these men never miss a funeral, braving the brutal cold, snow and wind of our Minnesota winters. Mr. Speaker, the members of the Memorial Rifle Squad have unselfishly given to our country through their own military service and continue that tradition today by honoring their fellow veterans. I commend their remarkable accomplishments and thank them for their service.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN PATRICK MARTIN, FIREFIGHTER MARVIN DONALDSON, FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN JOHNSON, FIREFIGHTER DAVID BRADLEY, AND MR. SEAN MCKARNIN

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor five firefighters from my district, Missouri's Fifth, who selflessly risked their lives in the line of duty. On February 23, 2004, Captain Patrick Martin, Firefighter Marvin Donaldson, Firefighter David Bradley, Firefighter Stephen Johnson, and Mr. Sean McKarnin responded to a fire at a residence in South Kansas City not far from where I live. Upon their arrival at the scene, they came under heavy and rapid gunfire from a nearby residence and were pinned down for nearly 30 minutes while the fire raged. In the midst of this chaos, a paramedic who also responded to the scene was shot. The team members successfully pulled her to safety and eventually extinguished the fire.

Today, these five heroes will be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor by President Bush. He will recognize their extraordinary

valor above and beyond the call of duty. The medal is the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer and only 10 public safety officers will receive this award this year.

I commend those firefighters for their exceptional courage and decisiveness in an extraordinary situation and know my colleagues will join me in honoring them today.

REDUCING HEALTH RISKS FROM OBESITY

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, obesity and obesity-associated annual hospital costs for children and adolescents have more than tripled over 2 decades, rising from \$35 million in 1979 to \$127 million in 2000.

This alarming rise in childhood obesity has resulted in a generation of children with many of the medical complications historically associated with adults, such as hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, and heart disease. Adult obesity increases risks for over 20 medical conditions costing about \$75 billion in medical expenses.

Obesity prevention starts at home. Parents need to begin to teach personal responsibility early on, to eat healthy meals, and establish an exercise routine for their families. There is no Federal program that can improve the habits of our Nation's children better than a team of responsible parents.

For our part, Congress should work with local communities to promote access to nutritious foods and physical activity programs that make healthy life-styles a priority, both in schools and the workplace. I ask that Members learn more about the costs and medical problems associated with obesity and other health care issues and urge them to visit my Web site at murphy.house.gov.

KARL ROVE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, one of my Republican colleagues from Texas just said that Karl Rove is his friend and is innocent until proven guilty and that Democrats should not criticize the Bush administration on this issue.

Republicans need to realize how serious Rove's actions were. Karl Rove's actions jeopardize the life of every CIA agent, every CIA agent that Valerie Plame ever came into contact with. President Bush's father, a former CIA director, believes it so serious that he said that people who expose CIA agents are the most insidious of traitors.

Rather than demand answers from Rove, congressional Republicans are either silent or are attacking Democrats. They should be asking how Rove had

the very information about Valerie Plame from the beginning, and they should deny him any further security clearance.

For 2 years, the Republicans and the Bush White House have defended Rove, and now we know that everything that they were telling us was simply false. It is time for Bush to remove Rove from the White House. It is time for Republicans to take this seriously and not come up here and talk about their friends and criticize Democrats.

□ 1030

IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED TAX CUTS AND IMPLEMENTING CAFTA FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, since Ronald Reagan was President, I have been listening to my very distinguished friends on the other side of the aisle time and time again say that, if we cut taxes, the economy will go into the tank and will dramatically exacerbate the Federal deficit.

Yesterday morning we picked up the New York Times, and there it was: It showed that the tax cuts that we put into place over the past few years under the leadership of President Bush, in fact, have increased the flow of revenues to the Federal treasury. And guess who is paying those increased taxes, Mr. Speaker? It is the wealthy.

We have also seen this morning evidence of zero inflation. That was what was reported this morning, zero inflation. We have seen the gross domestic product growth at 3.8 percent, and we are continuing to see more and more jobs created in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other things that we can do to expand this very positive economic growth that we are enjoying today, and it is first to further cut taxes so that we can expand that growth and also to realize that a tariff is a tax, and if we can eliminate taxes by implementing the Central American Free Trade Agreement, we will open up new markets for U.S. goods and services. Let us recognize the growth that we have had and expand this by opening up new markets with passage of CAFTA.

QUESTIONING KARL ROVE'S CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Americans must have thought that the world was turned upside down the other day when they turned on their TV in the morning and they saw former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who was convicted of lying to the